

was a decline in the sparse services available. For example, our three counties have lost home modification resources, rural transportation, and a large number of Medicaid friendly clinical services. This simply means that there is still a severe level of unmet need in our rural region.

We have found a few sources to minimally sustain this project. The network which we initiated in 1995 has matured today to include the State Office of Rural Health, federally funded community health center, State Area Agency on Aging, 9th District Social Services and our University. We are confident that this model is unique and we will strive to share our findings through HRSA publications.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1588) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2004, and for other purposes,

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, I wish to thank Chairman HUNTER, for yielding me this time and thank you for including my language in your en-bloc amendment.

Mr. Chairman, the horrific events of September 11th reminded us all of the importance of protecting our Nation and its people. Unfortunately, these emerging terrorist threats will continue to be an issue for many years to come.

National homeland defense must be our highest priority. We must utilize the unique capabilities and expertise of all agencies in this effort, including the Department of Defense.

The military's mission has been fundamentally changed by the new homeland defense requirements. This mission change has been significant enough to warrant the creation of another major combatant command—Northern Command—to be responsible for national homeland defense.

We must identify exactly what the Department of Defense needs to execute this vital mission. Major steps are already being taken in this area. However, it is essential that we continue to closely examine what is needed to protect America during this dangerous time. Military construction to support the homeland defense mission is an integral part of the picture.

Homeland defense has not been traditionally used as a determining factor in the funding of MILCON projects. I remain concerned that we do not evaluate our military construction needs in light of the new homeland defense mission. This amendment will ensure that all MILCON projects, regardless of when submitted, be evaluated in part for their contribution to the homeland defense mission.

Postponing needed military construction required for homeland defense is something we cannot afford to do.

We need to make homeland defense one of the principle criteria for all future military con-

struction programs. For example, in my district, the 177th Fighter Wing has been worldwide-deployable, but is now focused on homeland defense.

NORAD and NORTHCOM have given this wing responsibility for 24-hour alert and combat air patrol along the mid-Atlantic, including responsibility for cap missions over New York City and Washington, DC.

Because of this new 24-hour alert site status, the wing's needs have changed. Their military construction requirements have changed and this amendment will ensure the MILCON process recognizes this trend nationwide.

I encourage you to vote for this amendment to help preserve our homeland defense. Finally, I join with you to commend the men and women of our Nation's Armed Forces for service and thank them for securing the freedom we all enjoy.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HERALD-CITIZEN

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 100th year of existence of The Herald-Citizen of Cookeville, Tennessee, an integral part of the community and a reliable source of news for Putnam County and the Upper Cumberland region.

The first edition of this Middle Tennessee newspaper was published on February 11, 1903, by Elmer Wirt and his son, Ralph. During the next century, this newspaper kept Cookeville well-informed and evolved into an award-winning daily publication. From a small town of barely 600 people in 1903 to a thriving Upper Cumberland community of about 25,000 residents today, Cookeville has depended on The Herald-Citizen for unbiased news coverage.

Many changes have occurred at the newspaper during the past century. As the community grew and prospered, so did The Herald Citizen. Elmer Wirt and his son printed the first edition on a small flatbed press that sat on top of a table, with the type set by hand. C. Lee Walls Sr. and his son, C. Lee Walls Jr., now print the newspaper on a modern, computerized press weighing many tons.

Although many changes have occurred at the newspaper and to the community, one thing remains certain: The Herald-Citizen's commitment to fair and honest news coverage. Cookeville and the surrounding communities of Putnam County have benefitted tremendously from the hard work and dedication of the newspaper and its employees over the years. I congratulate the newspaper's success and am sure the next 100 years of publication will be just as exciting and rewarding as the first 100 years.

HONORING GUSTAVUS EVANSEN

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to mention an exem-

plary Staten Islander, Mr. Gustavus Evansen. He embodies the hard work and determination that characterizes the American Dream.

In 1923, at the age of 17, Gus Evansen emigrated to the United States, along with the rest of his family. They joined his father, Jorgen, who had traveled here to lay the foundations of a stable life for the family in 1917. He automatically began to work alongside his father at the Electric Launch Company, or Elco, in Bayonne, New Jersey, practicing the same shipbuilding trade his father had practiced in their homeland of Denmark. He and his father worked out of their own garage on nights and weekends to make ends meet during the Depression.

Mr. Evansen was promoted to foreman of the hull-building department in 1939, and continued to work for the next 6 years on the 399 PT-boats that Elco made for our government's use in the Second World War. After the war, as the Elco Company scrambled for work while the government contracts waned, Mr. Evansen lost his job when Elco closed down for good in 1949. He wasted no time in beginning a new career with the U.S. Coast Guard. At the age of 70, after 25 years building workboats on Governor's Island, and after rising from the rank of third-class boatbuilder to assistant foreman, Gus Evansen finally retired.

In 1930, he had married his childhood sweetheart, Bergit Knutsen who, with her family, had also emigrated from Denmark. They were together for 71 years until her death. Gus is currently 96 years old, and is enjoying his hard-earned retirement in Staten Island, New York. He has two daughters, five grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. Mr. Evansen has led the life of a model citizen, has worked hard to make a life for his family, and is the true embodiment of the American Dream.

Mr. Evansen, thank you for being a model citizen, and a proud Staten Islander.

HONORING JAKE FANNON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jake Fannon posthumously for his military accomplishments and years of service to our country. He fought in both World War II and the Korean War, and overcame the countless injuries to continue his service.

In 1941, Jake enlisted in the U.S. Army at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and began his basic infantry training at Camp Roberts in California. He was assigned to the 813th combat engineers in Alaska where he was wounded in duty. He was a part of the 'C' Company 15th Regiment 1st Infantry Division and was injured during the first wave of the Normandy Invasion (D-Day). Later that year he joined the 78th Infantry Division in Germany where he served in combat until the end of the war. One year later, Jake was sent overseas to Australia as part of the 572nd Military Police, afterwards going to Korea. He then served at Fort Benning, Georgia as a paratrooper. After recovering from injuries sustained during one of his jumps, he was sent to the front lines in Korea and was hit on the third day causing

severe facial injuries. Jake continued his service in Germany and several areas in the U.S. before retiring in 1963.

Jake has received countless awards and honors for his steadfast service including: two Bronze Stars, four Purple Hearts, and a Silver Star. Following his service in Korea he was presented with the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1950, and yet refused the award, wishing to return to the lines with his men rather than become an officer. He subsequently received a Bronze Star and his fourth Purple Heart in its place.

He is survived by his wife Lela Fannon; his sons Tommy, Timmy, David, and Steve; and his 13 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jake Fannon for his exceptional service to our country and his efforts around the world. I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Jake for an exceptional career and for his everlasting contributions.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION AMENDMENTS OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule.

I cannot believe the Majority will not even let us debate who should be allowed to receive an extension of unemployment insurance.

The extension that we will be allowed to vote on, provided this rule stands, will provide twenty six weeks of assistance to those few states that have exceeded an unemployment threshold of six percent. The unemployed workers in those six states receive the needed benefits, while those in other states receive only half of the extension. This bill ignores that specific areas have suffered high unemployment, but whose overall state unemployment rate has not exceeded the threshold.

In Boulder, which has a number of high-tech companies that have either closed up shop or laid off workers, I have seen a job loss rate exceeding sixteen percent between January of 2001 to January of 2003, this according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This has resulted in a substantial increase in unemployment, and considering the state of our economy, this trend doesn't seem like it will change soon. In fact, the average monthly claims for unemployment averaged a little over sixtyfive hundred claims per month in 2001, by the end of 2002 that number had jumped to over eleven thousand three hundred. But since Colorado's unemployment level has been just below six percent these workers will be in trouble if they can't find a job within the allotted thirteen weeks, if this bill passes.

This isn't just a problem in Colorado. This is a national problem and we need to treat it as such.

But the Majority has created a rule that will not allow us to even consider amendments that would help those Americans who are struggling and cannot find employment.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote no on the rule.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2185, UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION AMENDMENTS OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose this unfair rule and the underlying bill. I stand in solidarity with my colleagues who believe that this body should act in the best interests of all Americans and not only the few. I also stand to speak for those Americans who are not here to speak for themselves. I am here to say that many of them are hurting. They are unemployed and their Federal unemployment benefits are about to run out. Beyond the unemployed individuals themselves, there are countless children and families who depend on them. They are hurting, too.

If this bill is passed without amendment over 69,000 Texans will be left out. That is almost 70,000 people from my State who will not be helped by the Republicans bill. Furthermore, this summer, 39,000 Texans will face the end of their Federal unemployment benefits. This is disgraceful and it is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, in my district, the unemployment rate is 6.2 percent. In Texas, there are over $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million people who are unemployed. During the 2 years of this administration, thousands of jobs have been lost in my State. During that same period millions of jobs have been lost across the country. The Democrats have been trying to make that point to our colleagues on the other side of the aisle but they remained deaf to the people's concerns.

Soon across the United States more than 1 million Americans will have exhausted both their state and Federal unemployment benefits yet they will still be unemployed. There are now 3.4 unemployed workers for every one job opening. As a result of the weak economy, this country has lost more than 500,000 jobs Justin the last 3 months. In fact, 70 percent more workers have currently exhausted their Federal benefits than during the recession of the early 1990s.

According to the Joint Economic Committee, the persistence of job losses at the 2-year mark in this recession is unprecedented since the Great Depression. That is a stunning fact. And it is the reason, the legislation put forth by the Democrats calls for \$18 billion to extend and strengthen unemployment benefits this year. The Republican bill on the other hand only provides \$6 billion.

Our Republican colleagues have failed to do anything to help the millions of Americans who need jobs. Rather than re-igniting the economy so that job creation would occur, the Republicans have passed staggering tax cuts that benefit the wealthy far more than the average working or unemployed person. Now the Republicans put forth this bill in an effort to persuade the American people that they are listening and responding to the needs of the unemployed. However, their bill does not do enough.

When we have the opportunity to help all unemployed workers why don't we take that opportunity? When we know that more people

will need assistance 2 months from today, why don't we offer it to them? When we have the chance to provide help for the families of long-term unemployed people while they struggle to make ends meet and to find another job—any job that will allow them to take care of their families—why don't we do so? These are the questions I pose to my Republican colleagues.

When Republicans have the chance to do more to help the families of the unemployed they decide not to do so and instead propose this perfunctory bill that will help some but not enough. That is the most egregious element of this bill. They choose to leave out many Americans when the Democrats would include them. If the Republicans would allow the substitute bill to be heard on the floor they would learn that the Democrats have a better piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, if this rule is not defeated I will vote in favor of this amendment but I will continue to push for a stronger bill that helps more Americans. And I will continue to work for legislation that helps put Americans back to work.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL JERRY S. CHASTAIN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Jerry S. Chastain for his brave service in the United States Military during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Upon his graduation from the Citadel, Lieutenant Colonel Chastain was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Quartermaster Corps. Since then, he has served both at home and abroad in the United States, Europe and Kuwait. Some of his assignments include Supply Platoon Leader and Battalion S-4, Supply and Services Officer, A Company Commander, Future Readiness Officer, Executive Officer for the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, and J4 Logistics Commander. In all of his positions, he has demonstrated integrity and excellent leadership.

Lieutenant Colonel Chastain has been recognized with many honors during his time in the military. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with Three Oak Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal, the NATO medal, the Army Staff Badge, the Parachutist Badge, and the Air Assault Badge.

Lieutenant Colonel Chastain has repeatedly demonstrated his devotion and commitment to this country. He has boldly stood in defense of our Nation and a free world. He serves as an admirable role model for his three sons and for all American citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend the gratitude of myself and an entire Nation to Lieutenant Colonel Jerry S. Chastain for his service in Operation Iraqi Freedom. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his courageous efforts and wishing him well as he returns home.